

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney
Karen P. Hewitt***

For Further Information, Contact: Assistant United States Attorney Anne Perry (619) 557-5767

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - November 27, 2007

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Eric Don Standefer of San Diego pled guilty today in federal court in San Diego to a charge of Possession of Child Pornography. Standefer entered his guilty plea before United States Magistrate Judge Jan M. Adler, subject to final acceptance of the plea by United States District Court Judge Marilyn L. Huff at the time of sentencing.

According to court records, the investigation started in March 2006, when the Federal Bureau of Investigation learned that individuals were using the online currency "E-gold" to purchase access to child pornography websites. Standefer was identified as one of the purchasers, and a search warrant was executed at his residence in June 2006. At the time the agents effected entry into the residence, Standefer was pounding on his laptop computer with a sledge hammer. Agents recovered CD-Roms that had images of children engaged in sexually explicit activity.

Prior to the execution of the search warrant, Standefer was employed as a music teacher at Jean Farb Middle School in San Diego. He currently faces up to ten years' incarceration, a mandatory minimum of five years' supervised release, and will have to register as a sex offender. Sentencing is set before the Honorable Marilyn L. Huff on February 19, 2008, at 9:00 a.m.

This case is part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims of the exploitation. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafchildhood.gov

DEFENDANT

Case No. 06-CR-2674-H

Eric Don Standefer

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(4); Possession of Images of Minors Engaged in Sexually Explicit Activity

Maximum penalties: 10 years' incarceration; 5 years' minimum mandatory supervised release; \$100 penalty assessment; registration as a sex offender

INVESTIGATING AGENCY

Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce